

Serial No.: 09/423,916

Attorney Docket No.: 33997.0011

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:**Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)**

16. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~15~~ 46, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes thermoplastic.
17. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~15~~ 46, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes duroplastic.
18. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~15~~ 46, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes thermosetting plastic.
19. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~15~~ 46, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes carbon fibers.
20. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~15~~ 46, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes aramid fibers.
21. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~15~~ 46, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes glass fibers.
22. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~15~~ 46, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes mineral fibers.
23. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~15~~ 46, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes polyamide fibers.
24. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~15~~ 46, wherein said metal is aluminum.

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25. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~15~~ 46, characterized in that said fibers are oriented by at least one winding method chosen from the group of winding methods consisting of: filament winding, braided tube winding, cloth and non-woven fabric winding.

26. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 25, wherein said fibers are oriented unidirectionally.

27. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 25, wherein said fibers are oriented at zero angle relative to a longitudinal axis of said support member.

28. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~14~~ 46, wherein said first material and said second material are rigidly connected to each other.

29. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 28, wherein said first material and said second material are rigidly connected to each other by cementing.

30. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 28, wherein said first material and said second material are rigidly connected to each other so that they are they are ~~thrust elastically damped~~ elastic to thrust loading.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 32, wherein said at least one support member divided by said interface is said at least one support member including first and second concentric tubes.

34. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~34~~ 46, wherein said at least one interface is metallic.

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35. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~31~~ 46, wherein a damping layer is provided at said at least one interface.

36. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 35, wherein said damping layer includes a mixed-cell foam of an elastomeric material.

37. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~14~~ 46, further comprising a base having a plurality of wheels, wherein a damping layer is provided between said base and each of said plurality of wheels.

38. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~14~~ 46, further comprising a base having a plurality of positioning feet.

39. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 38, wherein a damping layer is provided between said positioning feet and the floor on which said microscope stand resides.

40. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~14~~ 46, further comprising a base including a lower plate and an upper plate, wherein said lower plate and said upper plate are separated by a honeycomb structure cemented in place.

41. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 40, wherein said lower and upper plates are rigidly fastened together at at least one point.

42. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 38, further comprising a positioning means for simultaneously lowering said plurality of feet.

43. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 42, wherein each of said plurality of feet is threadably adjustable relative to said base, and said positioning means comprises a plurality of gear wheels associated one with each of said plurality of feet to rotate therewith, a positioning chain arranged to operatively engage said plurality of gear wheels, and an eccentric mechanism for driving said chain.

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44. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim ~~44~~ 46, wherein said at least one support member is prestressed in its axial direction.

45. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 44, wherein said prestressing is produced by a central tensioning element which is stressed in tension with respect to said at least one support member.

46. (Represented - formerly dependent claim # 32) A microscope stand comprising a plurality of support members, at least one of said plurality of support members including first and second concentric tubes formed of first and second materials, respectively, wherein one of said first and second materials is fiber-reinforced plastic, and another of said first and second materials is metal with a comparatively low modulus of elasticity relative to that of said one of said first and second materials and contributing to the vertical section modulus of said stand, and at least one interface for providing a stress-free connection between adjacent parts of said stand, wherein said at least one interface divides at least one of said plurality of support members into a pair of support member segments.